

# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



## Minnesota Rail and Pipeline Safety Regulations

The Minnesota Legislature passed rail and pipeline safety legislation in 2014. The law includes increased oversight of railroad companies, requires more railway inspections and provides for better emergency response training and preparedness in communities across Minnesota.

### Familiarization Training

- ***What the law requires***
  - The law directs DPS to work with local emergency managers and responders to understand the dangers of oil and other hazardous substances traveling through Minnesota.
  - DPS is required to assist local governments as they include emergency response information into their emergency operations plans.
  - DPS is responsible for working with railroad companies and pipeline companies in developing safety protocols and facilitating coordination between these companies and local public safety officials.
- ***Status***
  - DPS and its State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) have worked with the designated railroad and pipeline companies to complete a standard awareness training curriculum.
  - The program incorporates existing training programs offered by the railroad and pipeline companies as well as emergency response and pollution control curriculum.
  - The program is 3.5 hours and offered through the DPS with instructors from the railroad and pipeline industries, DPS and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

### Railroad and Pipeline Safety Account

- ***Funding is established by the 2014 law***

The Legislation established the Railroad and Pipeline Safety Account that includes:

  - a general fund appropriation, and;
  - a three-year assessment on railroad companies and pipeline companies transporting hazardous materials through the state.
  - The defined railroads and pipeline companies have been determined and have been sent assessments based on the legislation. All pipeline companies have submitted their assessed fee.
- ***How are the funds to be used?***

Under the law, DPS must prioritize the use of funds in the following manner:

  - Firefighter training needs
  - Community risk from discharge incidents or spills
  - Geographic balance
  - Recommendations from the Fire Service Advisory Committee

Permissible uses for the funds include:

- Emergency preparedness planning and coordination.
- Training (training curriculum, trainers, trainers overtime salary, other personnel overtime salary, and tuition);
- Costs for gear and equipment related to hazardous materials readiness, response, and management. These may be original purchase, maintenance, or replacement costs.

### Status

- The Management Analysis Division (MAD) of MMB presented a report on the current status of emergency response and a desired state of emergency response in Minnesota to the legislature on Jan. 15, 2015. This report helped DPS and the Fire Service Advisory Committee prioritize and determine how the account funds should be distributed.

### For more information

- Contact Jake Lindquist at [jacob.lindquist@state.mn.us](mailto:jacob.lindquist@state.mn.us) or 651-201-7219.